

rejection, it is requested that the Examiner issue a detailed, non-final office action clearly stating the reasons for the rejection of each claim in view of the prior art and the plain meaning of the claim terms.

The amendments are clarifying in nature and present no new issues for search. The amendments are calculated to place the claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the claims:

1. (Amended) A base module for removably receiving a disposable filter cartridge to form a filter assembly, said base module comprising:

a body defining a cartridge receptacle [for receiving a filter cartridge] and a central axial opening surrounded by a coaxial lip;

a mounting bracket extending from said body for mounting said base module to a vehicle;

a communication module receivable in said body central axial opening at a plurality of angular orientations to said body, said communication module including a skirt which mates with said lip, an inlet conduit extending axially into said receptacle, a corresponding inlet fitting defining a fluid passageway extending away from said receptacle and an outlet fitting defining a fluid passageway extending away from said receptacle,

wherein said communication module is received in said body and fixed to said body to form said base module.

11. (Amended) A base module for a filter assembly comprising:

a body defining a cartridge receptacle [for receiving a filter cartridge] and [including] a central opening;